

# Denotation & Connotation Writing Module

## Student Booklet

### Contents:

- SB#1: Engage Prior Knowledge—Silent Warm-Up
- SB#2: Practice—Denotation and Connotation in Poetry
- SB#3: Partner Practice—Denotation and Connotation in Poetry
- SB#4: Independent Practice

# SB#1: Engage Prior Knowledge—Silent Warm-Up

**Directions:** Read the words and definition in each row. After reading both words and the definition, circle the word in each row that you think is more positive.

	Word #1:	Definition of both words:	Word #2:
1	slender	sized thinner than average	scrawny
2	odor	a smell or scent	fragrance
3	acquaintance	a person known by another	friend
4	leisurely	unhurried, slower pace	lazily
5	youthful	a young age	immature

## SB#2: Practice—Denotation and Connotation in Poetry

### Part 1: Read the poem once.

From “Still I Rise” by Maya Angelou

Out of the huts of history's shame  
 I rise  
 Up from a past that's rooted in pain  
 I rise  
 I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
 Welling <sup>1</sup>and swelling <sup>2</sup>I bear in the tide.  
 Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
 I rise  
 Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
 I rise  
 Bringing the gifts that my ancestors<sup>3</sup> gave,  
 I am the dream and the hope of the slave.  
 I rise  
 I rise  
 I rise.

### Part 2: Identify the denotation and positive or negative connotation of the three underlined words in the poem.

Word	Denotation	Connotation	+ / -
shame			
terror			
hope			

<sup>1</sup> to rise, spring, or gush as water

<sup>2</sup> to enlarge, to bulge, to rise in the waves

<sup>3</sup> a person from whom one is descended

## SB#3: Partner Practice—Denotation and Connotation in Poetry

### Part 1: Read the poem once.

From “Pause” by Nikki Grimes

The sky is slate  
 and the world is a cold  
 and slushy place till  
 Kiara stops by Video Haven,  
sunshine in jeans  
 and knee-high boots.

...

“Catch you later,”

I tell her,  
 and she blows me a kiss  
 warm enough to melt  
 every patch of ice  
 on the planet.  
 Gotta watch out  
 for sun.

### Part 2: Identify the denotation and positive or negative connotation of the three underlined words in the poem.

Word	Denotation	Connotation	+ / -
slate			
sunshine			
melt			

Scoring:	
	Points earned:
Key Terms	___ / 2
Four Denotations	___ / 4
Four Connotations	___ / 4
Four + / - Connotations	___ / 4
Total points (out of 14):	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## SB#4: Independent Practice

### Part 1: Review key terms

Directions: Define each key term from the lesson

1. Denotation: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Connotation: \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 2: Read the poem once.

From "Oranges" by Gary Soto

The first time I walked  
 With a girl, I was twelve,  
 Cold, and weighted down  
 With two oranges in my jacket.  
 December. Frost cracking  
 Beneath my steps  
 ...

## SB#4: Independent Practice (cont.)

### Part 2 Read the poem once. (cont.)

I took my girl's hand  
In mine for two blocks,  
Then released it to let  
Her unwrap the chocolate.  
I peeled my orange  
That was so bright against  
The gray of December  
That, from some distance,  
Someone might have thought  
I was making a fire in my hands.

### Part 3: Identify the denotation and positive or negative connotation of the four underlined words in the poem.

Word	Denotation	Connotation	+ / -
cold			
bright			
gray			
fire			